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THE DECORATOR AND FURNISHER.

RANDOM NOTES.



HERE is a great fashion for quaint old oaken cupboards, and many an old store or curiosity shop is ransacked to find the desired article. The unvarnished ones are considered more desirable than the glossy dark ones. Many a beauty, which has blushed unseen for decades, has been brought to light out of the farm houses belonging to the old Dutch settlers in Pennsylvania and Southern Ohio.

The blue and white, red and white, red and blue woven counterpanes of our grandmother's day are being hung for portieres and used to cover and drape lounges and divans.

A decoration which may be used in chambers, boudoirs or Summer cottages is made of art muslin and palm leaf fans. One room seen had a deep dado of rich brick red patterned art muslin, looped at short distances by palm leaf fans, put side-ways, with the handles standing downwards. The mantel-shelf and door were decorated to match. The fans were alternately self colored and painted brick red. Sprays of ivy were trailing over the shelf and over the door. Some of the fans had bows of satin ribbon tied around the handle.

A quaint fancy is to buy a quantity of Japanese paper fans with bamboo handles, paint them different colors, and arrange them on a shelf at the top of the dado running round a room. They may be placed some distance from each other, among photographs and pottery, and if well harmonized are bright and effective in an ordinary sized room. These fans are used for holding drapery at windows, over doors, mirrors or portieres.

Low divans to put in one corner of a small room, or between a window and fire place are easily made by covering two small mattresses, and laying one upon the other. Another small mattress is covered and hung, by means of hooks and rings, to the wall just above the divan, so that the edge reaches to it.

The new designs for tea-stands are done in wrought iron, though copper and brass are used. There is a slender upright bar of iron, curving over the top, and there hangs suspended a small copper tea-kettle, beneath which is a tiny alcohol lamp of the same metal; they are elaborately wrought and very ornamental. The use of these in the boudoir or back parlor gives a hostess an opportunity of offering to her chance guest a cup of fragrant Oolong while she sits and chats.

A fashion which has gained favor with some is to gild boudoir doors, and fill in the panels with pieces of old carved oak fitted in. This has a good effect in wall cupboards, shutters or the back of a cottage piano.

An "ivory" room or hall is the latest "fad," and really is not difficult to arrange. White enameling has been in vogue for some time, but the latest tried is more creamy. The old ivory Japanese paper is used for panels, jambs of mantel shelves and dado. Sometimes the floor is enameled old ivory, and has rugs and small carpets of Oriental make laid on it. White frames for screens are used, and the framework of all the furniture is painted white.

In window seats where space will permit, two or even three shelves may be fitted in, the upper one cushioned for a seat or used for a stand for flowers, and the under ones for books and odds and ends. A curtain of India silk, hung on a tiny brass rod, will conceal the litter of papers and magazines which will accumulate in spite of continual weeding out. In a chamber it makes a good place for hiding boots and shoes.

A panel over a mantel, in a guest chamber may very appropriately bear the following legend: "The ornament of a house is the friends who frequent it."

Pretty thimble cases are made of English walnut shells, painted white with the edges gilded, suspended by loops of baby ribbon or tiny cords with fringed out tassels.

Usually paper flowers are rather tawdry ornaments, but the stately flower of France is an exception to this rule. A gorgeous stalk of *fleur de lis* set upright on the edge of a picture frame, or two or three of them in a tall vase give a lovely bit of color to an otherwise dark corner. The purple and yellow combined are sometimes used for table decorations.

Rustic easels for photographs are made of various sized twigs cut from a tree, sometimes varnished, but more often left in a state of nature.

A very pretty laundry list is made of celluloid, the rough side out, encased in a frame of yellow-gray cartridge paper.

A little tea-stand is made of bamboo, with three small shelves which unscrew and come off at pleasure. These shelves are covered with palm leaf fans, the handles and a few inches of the lower part being cut off to make it straight to fasten to the stand. The top is covered with a fan too, all of them being edged with two strips of split rattan.

A Japanese doll sachet is made of a Japanese napkin, filled with cotton and violet, while the corners are brought up and folded surplice fashion across the breast of a Japanese doll, which is held in the center, the remaining two corners are folded and crossed over the back of the doll, thus covering it to the waist.

A unique paper-holder may be made of an ordinary wash-board. A bow of ribbon is placed in the right hand corner of the smooth part, where the soap is usually laid. Diagonally across the other corner the word "Journeux" or papers may be painted. A pocket of black satin, with yellow bow to match the other, is pulled on over the corrugated part. Heavy cord and tassels are used for hanging, or ribbons.

A useful adjunct to the desk or library table is made of a very common hair brush. Some of the bristles are cut away from the center, enough to allow the introduction of a small glass inkstand. This may be securely fastened with a few drops of Le Page's gum. The bristles are used for wiping the pen, while the brush makes a solid foundation for the inkstand, which otherwise might be easily overturned.

Ladies take especial pride in decorating their boudoirs or "sulking rooms," which is the literal meaning of the word. The walls of one seen lately was draped with some of Priestley's Tamise cloth, in color a beautiful pearl gray, in texture soft and fine, which fell into the most graceful folds imaginable. The ceiling was covered with the same material, gathered full in the center around the chandelier. There was a dado of French cretonne, of cream ground, over which ran riot a design of pale pink roses and convolvulus. The frieze was narrower, and had only the trailing vine in shaded pink. The furniture was painted white and upholstered with the Tamise and the cretonne. The effect was indescribably light, airy and artistic. The gray goods might be effectively used with wine colored plush or any pale blue material.

No girl need lighten her purse by buying trimming nor yet go without a pretty gingham dress for Summer if she will take the trouble to copy some of the cross-stitch patterns so long in use. These are easily worked on checked gingham, using each check for a stitch. Dexter's white knitting cotton is rather the most effective, still some use colored working cotton, to contrast or harmonize with the goods.

A pretty book-case curtain seen was made of heavy gray furniture satin, with a large bold scroll design done in outline stitch with a dull gold silk.

The modern rocking-chair is a thing of beauty and a joy to the possessor. It is of woven willow in graceful shape and artistic pattern, enameled with white and decorated with gold bands, stripes and splashes. The palest of moss green, Gobelins blue or old pink plush is fashioned into cushions, held in place with broad sashes of delicately tinted ribbon.

If art is admitted in the decoration of the dinner table it should be perfect of its kind, down to the table cloth, and a definite scheme should be carried out.

A couch for a boudoir may be made of a wide low couch of wicker work, upon which should be laid a thick mattress, over which may be thrown a Turkish covering, rich, dark strongly blending colors, falling to the floor. Three square pillows should then be procured of a size that when placed together the three extend the length of the couch. Cover these with any material and color that will harmonize with the room, tie them together with heavy cord and lean them up against the wall alongside the couch.